

1. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system comprising:  
a satellite television (TV) receiver;  
at least one passenger video display  
5 connected to said satellite TV receiver; and  
a processor connected to said satellite TV receiver for determining an undesired condition and for generating responsive thereto a substitute image on  
said at least one passenger video display rather than  
10 permit display of an undesired image which would otherwise be produced.

2. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein said satellite TV receiver comprises a direct broadcast satellite (DBS) receiver.

3. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein the undesired condition is a weak received signal strength condition; and wherein said processor determines the weak received  
5 signal strength condition.

4. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein the undesired condition is a component malfunction; and wherein said processor determined the component malfunction.

5. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein the undesired image is a degraded program image.

6. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein the undesired image is default text message image.

7. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 further comprising a storage device connected to said processor for storing the substitute image.

8. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein said satellite TV receiver generates a plurality of individual video channels; and wherein said processor determines the  
5 undesired condition for each of the individual video channels.

9. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein said satellite TV receiver generates a plurality of video channels; and wherein said processor determines the undesired  
5 condition for the plurality of video channels.

10. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one passenger video display comprises a plurality of passenger seatback video displays.

11. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one passenger video display comprises a plurality of passenger video displays, and further comprising:  
5 a plurality of signal distribution devices;  
and  
a cable network connecting said satellite TV receiver to said signal distribution devices, and

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narrow-body aircraft having a single passenger aisle.

system comprising:

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receiver.

image is a degraded program image.

image is default text/image.

system according to claim 13 further comprising a

storage device connected to said processor for storing the substitute image.

18. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 13 wherein said satellite TV receiver generates a plurality of individual video channels; and wherein said processor determines the  
5 undesired condition for each of the individual video channels.

19. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 13 wherein said satellite TV receiver generates a plurality of video channels; and wherein said processor determines the undesired  
5 condition for the plurality of video channels.

20. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 13 further comprising:  
a plurality of signal distribution devices;  
and  
5 a cable network connecting said satellite TV receiver to said signal distribution devices, and connecting said signal distribution devices to said passenger video displays.

21. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 13 wherein the aircraft is a narrow-body aircraft having a single passenger aisle.

22. A method for operating an aircraft in-flight entertainment system comprising a satellite television (TV) receiver, and at least one passenger video display connected to the satellite television  
5 receiver, the method comprising:  
determining an undesired condition; and

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34. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 32 wherein said moving map image generator comprises a processor for determining an aircraft position during flight.

35. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 34 further comprising a global positioning system (GPS) receiver connected to said processor for determining the aircraft position.

36. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 35 further comprising a steerable antenna connected to said satellite TV receiver; and wherein steering of said steerable  
5 antenna is based upon signals from said GPS receiver.

37. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 34 wherein said processor further determines at least one of an aircraft direction, aircraft speed and aircraft altitude for  
5 display with the moving map image.

38. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 32 wherein said at least one passenger video display comprises a plurality of passenger seatback video displays.

39. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 32 wherein said at least one passenger video display comprises a plurality of passenger video displays, and further comprising:

5 a plurality of signal distribution devices;  
and

a cable network connecting said satellite TV receiver and said moving map image generator to said signal distribution devices, and connecting said signal  
10 distribution devices to said passenger video displays.

40. An aircraft in-flight entertainment system according to Claim 32 wherein the aircraft is a narrow-body aircraft having a single longitudinal passenger aisle.

41. A method for operating an aircraft in-flight entertainment system comprising a satellite television (TV) receiver for generating a plurality of video programming channels, at least one passenger video display connected to the satellite TV receiver, and at least one passenger control unit associated with a respective passenger video display for permitting passenger selection of programming channels for display on the respective passenger video display, the method comprising:

generating a flight information channel including a moving representation of the aircraft position on a map image; and

permitting passenger selection of the flight information channel on the passenger video display also using the at least one passenger control unit.

42. A method according to Claim 41 wherein the satellite TV receiver comprises a direct broadcast satellite (DBS) receiver.

43. A method according to Claim 41 wherein generating the flight information channel comprises determining an aircraft position during flight.

44. A method according to Claim 41 wherein generating the flight information channel comprises determining at least one of an aircraft direction, aircraft speed and aircraft altitude for display with the moving map image.



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